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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

MAY 1966

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 268

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

DECEMBER, 1965

Winter Job Total Exceeds All Past Years

1965 Record Employment Year—The Montana economy was on firm ground as 1965 drew to a close. It will be written in the record as a year which provided the highest monthly levels of non-farm employment than any other year in history. This healthy economic complexion is also reflected in a substantial reduction in the number of jobless pay claims filed by unemployed workers during 1965. There is every indication that these optimistic trends will carry over into 1966 and set the pace for another good employment year in Montana.

183,900 on November Payrolls—After a seasonal decline of 2,900 from October, 183,900 non-farm workers remained on November payrolls, the highest total for that month on record. The seasonal change between these two months in 1964 was a drop of 3,800 workers. Compared with November 1964 employment, the total this year was 5,500 higher. The gain from November 1959 when Montana and the nation were in a period of economic downturn was a hefty 22,400 workers.

Good Year-To-Year Gain—Matching non-farm employment totals of November 1965 against the same month a year ago, an increase of 5,500 is shown. Employment this year was up in six of the basic industry groups, down slightly in one, while another showed no change. Major industrial groups contributing most noticeably to the employment growth include government, up 2,200; and manufacturing, up 1,000. More moderate gains were posted by

trade industries, up 300. Employment advances of 100 each were recorded in the transportation, communications and utilities group; and in finance, insurance and real estate firms. Mining, which includes metal mining; coal, quarrying and non-metallic operations; and petroleum and natural gas production, was the only industry to show a decline from November 1964, dropping by 400 workers. Employment in various service industries, at 24,900, did not change.

Seasonal Changes Appear—Seasonal changes in employment levels which made their first real appearance in the November job picture will become more forceful as the winter season advances. Employment in construction, logging, and other outdoor activities will diminish seasonally in line with historically set patterns. This downward trend usually continues until March when employment again starts to climb with the first forces of spring.

Construction employment, down 1,000 from October to November, accounted for nearly a third of decline in total non-farm employment during this period. Employment levels in this industry during the next few months are expected to exceed last year as a good schedule of building construction is in progress. Some public and commercial buildings are in a generally favorable position to continue work throughout the winter, having reached the enclosed stage. An appreciable increase in winter employment is expected to result.

Other over-the-month seasonal employment dips were noticed in trade, industries, down 700; manufacturing, down 600; and transportation, communications and utilities, down 300; and service industries, down 300. Monthly employment totals in mining, finance, insurance and real estate; and government remained the same as October.

Job Placements Up 37 Percent—The twenty-two local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 3,320 workers in jobs in industry and commerce this November, up 37 per cent from a year ago. Trade, manufacturing, construction and service industry groups provided most of the new job openings. Industrial employers listed 3,594 job openings with local employment offices during November, 35 per cent more than last year. Farm job placements were up 39 per cent this year, with 821 agricultural workers placed this November against 591 a year ago.

Lower UCC Claim Peak Seen—With weekly unemployment claim totals running substantially below last year, the winter claim peak this year is expected to be at least 2,000 under last season's high. The peak last year was recorded for the week ending January 15, 1965 when 11,392 claims were filed. The highest claim total for any single week in the history of the unemployment insurance program in Montana was recorded on February 28, 1958 when 20,418 claims were filed.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Oct. 1965	Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 1965	Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 1965	Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 1965	Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 1965	Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964
All Manufacturing	3.8	7.0	3.7	3.6	6.1	3.4	6.3	8.9	5.1	3.2	6.2	2.5	1.2	1.5	1.5
Durable Goods.....	3.9	8.3	4.0	3.5	7.2	3.6	7.1	9.8	5.5	3.5	7.5	2.8	1.1	.7	1.5
Primary Metal.....	2.2	10.8	2.6	2.1	7.0	2.1	6.5	10.8	4.0	1.4	8.9	.9	.1	*	1.3
Nondurable Goods.....	3.7	4.1	2.9	3.7	3.7	2.9	4.5	7.0	4.1	2.5	3.6	1.8	1.4	3.0	1.6
All Mining	9.8	5.3	5.0	4.7	3.4	2.5	7.6	11.9	6.2	2.4	5.8	2.8	.7	3.6	.8
Metal Mining.....	6.6	5.6	5.3	2.1	3.4	1.7	5.9	8.9	7.2	3.0	5.9	3.3	.3	.6	.4

*Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for November

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—Improved economic conditions over last year show in increased hiring at smelter and construction of job corps camp. Job placements show gain of 89 over November a year ago. Moderate hiring of railroad extra gang workers noted. Farm labor demand quiet.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—High employment levels maintained in most industry groups during November as favorable weather prevailed. Most construction activity still in good force except for few layoffs in road oiling operations. Building construction permits totaled \$668,000, mostly for new construction. Major projects include shopping center, college dormitory, telephone building, and sewage project at Laurel. Trade industries generally keep stable trends but normal seasonal declines continue in service industry segments. Employment in transportation and mining shows no appreciable change.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Good economic trends carried through November aided by good weather. Industrial job placements up 35% from year ago. Peak employment maintained on major building projects including college dormitory. Projects completed include main street improvement and municipal building. Logging and sawmill activities at full capacity with continuing shortage of timber fallers. Farm job placements up 30% from last year.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Economic highlights include increased activity in metal mining operations and good volume of new building construction. Demolition work continues to clear downtown sites for new bank and high rise motel. Opening of new Holiday Inn mid-February will create 50 new jobs. Trade industries enjoying good volume of business.

CUT BANK—New unemployment increased by 30% during November as severe weather cut sharply into most outdoor work. Activities in various oil field operations remained strong with 14 drilling rigs active. New bulk plant under construction.

DILLON—Economic trends in industry and farm still holding above seasonal levels. Mild weather reduced demand for range livestock feeders. No farm labor shortages at present. Build-

Civilian Work Force
Total Employment
Total Non-agricultural
Employment
(Non-agricultural Wage
& Salary)
Total Agricultural Employment
Labor Management Disputes
Total Unemployment
Percent Unemployed
U. S. Unemployment Rate

	Nov. 65	Oct. 65	Nov. 64	Oct. 65 to Nov. 65	Nov. 64 to Nov. 65
Civilian Work Force	258.2	257.9	247.4	.3	10.8
Total Employment	248.1	251.7	237.2	-3.6	10.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	214.8	217.4	204.1	-2.6	10.7
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	183.9	186.8	178.4	-2.9	5.5
Total Agricultural Employment	33.3	34.3	33.1	-1.0	.2
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.2	.2	-.1	-.1
Total Unemployment	10.0	6.0	10.0	4.0	.0
Percent Unemployed	3.9	2.3	4.0		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	3.6	4.5		

ing and road projects on fairly good schedules with only intermittent layoffs. Work continues on new sawmill.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta Opheim—Job hiring up substantially over year ago as good weather allowed much outdoor work to progress without interruption. Two road construction projects shut down as the month ended. Activity in trade and service groups not too brisk prior to holiday season.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Good levels of employment maintained in most industry groups throughout the month. Work progressed on most construction including interior work on new bank and service station. Oil field activity shows increase in both work-over and drilling operations. Trade industry hiring up moderately.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Good economic climate and moderate weather kept hiring and employment at near record levels during the month. Job placements nearly double from year ago totals. Smelter hiring continued on fairly steady basis. Construction still held good but some seasonal declines evident on major projects. Farm labor demand exceeded last year.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Active file up as women register for employment with new trade firm. Experienced workers in logging classifications are hard to find as lumber industry holds to solid trends. Opening of new trade firm will employ about 16 in sales and clerical fields. Construction down due to wet weather. Farm labor demand good.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Normal seasonal changes in labor market starting to show as early winter cycle begins. Layoffs in construction and agriculture most noticeable during the month. Employment in service indus-

tries and railroads hold steady. Main street employment showing temporary gains for holiday season.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Overall economic picture exhibits good trends with hiring activity above year ago totals. Most of the gain attributed to expanding trade firms. Some shortages of workers in sales and food service classifications occurred. Construction still active with addition of two major projects valued at \$5 million.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—Stable trends in retail trade and aluminum production plus increases in building construction and plywood manufacturing kept economy on high level during the month. Snow and cold weather left its mark on highway construction with two projects closed for the season and curtailed operations at three others. Layoff of 125 yard workers came as Christmas tree harvest ended. Building construction and lumber industry demanded extra workers during the month.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Farm labor demand down seasonally from last month but up slightly from last year. Industry job hiring geared mainly to improved conditions on main street and a more active construction schedule. Other than building, most construction now closed for the winter season.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Seasonal influences now in command of labor market activity. Facilities at Yellowstone Park closed for the season with final reduction of seasonal personnel. Main street business not up to expectations prior to busy holiday season. Good supply of workers available for immediate employment. New bank and high school main construction projects. Some demand for railroad signal repair crews.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.3
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	163.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.9*		

*Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1964 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for November

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Employment continued to remain at high level as mild weather prevailed during November. Unemployment claims' totals lowest of any November of record. Work on two building projects should continue throughout the winter. No great need for extra holiday workers in trade.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—A brisk local economy combined with good weather made for more job placements for any November since 1962. High volume of employment maintained in construction and lumbering. Hiring by trade industries was twice the October activity. Shortages of qualified woods workers carried over from early summer. Agricultural hiring showed hefty gains.

POLSON—Increased demand for lumber saw hiring for mill work. Logging continues on good schedules. Some layoffs of forest service and construction workers occurred because of bad weather. Trade and service at good pace.

SHELBY—Area employment trends kept fairly active but started to weaken as the month ended. Seasonal layoffs evident in construction and service industries. Working forces at missile site locations being trimmed to winter levels. Light farm labor demand.

SIDNEY—Employment activities in farm and industry keeping fairly active for this season of the year. Farm job placements show good advance over last two years. Declines in construction, trade and service evident with start of winter labor market cycle.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Most new unemployment during November was the result of seasonal layoffs in the forest service and construction. Overall economic picture was good. Lumbering at good pace with some worker shortages. Some highway work will continue through winter.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Work in construction and agriculture extended beyond seasonal limits by mild weather. Some new building projects completed during the month. Little change in oil field activities with hiring mainly for replacements. Normal hiring in trade.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Nov. 1965 (2)	Oct. 1965 (3)	Nov. 1964	Oct. '65 to Nov. '65	Nov. '65 Against Nov. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	183,900	186,800	178,400	—2,900	5,500
Manufacturing	23,300	23,900	22,300	—600	1,000
Durable goods	14,300	14,800	13,600	—500	700
Lumber and timber products	8,800	9,300	8,500	—500	300
Primary metals	3,600	3,600	3,300	00	300
Other (4)	1,900	1,900	1,800	00	100
Nondurable goods	9,000	9,100	8,700	—100	300
Food and kindred products	5,200	5,300	5,100	—100	100
Printing and publishing	1,900	1,900	1,700	00	200
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,700	00	— 400
Metal mining	4,500	4,500	4,800	00	— 300
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,100	1,000	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,700	1,900	00	— 200
Contract Construction	14,200	15,200	12,000	—1,000	2,200
Contractors, building construction	2,900	3,100	3,800	—200	— 900
Contractors, other than building	7,100	7,900	4,300	—800	2,800
Contractors, special trade	4,200	4,200	3,900	00	300
Transportation and utilities	17,500	17,800	17,400	—300	100
Interstate railroads	7,400	7,500	7,600	—100	— 200
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,300	3,900	—200	200
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,000	5,900	00	100
Trade	42,200	42,900	41,900	—700	300
Wholesale trade	8,700	8,900	8,800	—200	— 100
Retail trade	33,500	34,000	33,100	—500	400
General merchandise and apparel	6,600	6,500	6,400	100	200
Food stores	5,700	5,700	5,300	00	400
Eating and drinking establishments	8,300	8,800	8,200	—500	100
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,800	6,800	—100	— 100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,200	6,200	6,400	00	— 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	7,000	6,900	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	24,900	25,200	24,900	—300	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,000	3,300	2,800	—300	200
Personal services	1,900	2,000	2,200	—100	— 300
Other (6)	20,000	19,900	19,900	100	100
Government	47,500	47,500	45,300	00	2,200
Federal	11,600	11,800	11,900	—200	— 300
State and local	35,900	35,700	33,400	200	2,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,300	22,500	22,300	—200	00
Manufacturing	3,200	3,100	3,100	100	100
Contract construction	2,200	2,500	2,500	—300	— 300
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,900	5,700	—100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,400	3,500	3,500	—100	— 100
Government	4,400	4,200	4,200	200	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,800	25,000	25,100	—200	— 300
Manufacturing	3,100	3,200	3,100	—100	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,800	1,900	—100	— 200
Transportation and utilities	2,400	2,400	2,600	00	— 200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,600	7,700	7,600	—100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,600	4,600	4,600	00	00
Government	4,000	3,900	3,900	100	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 816 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,183 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN NOV. 1965 AND NOV. 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U1 Claims*	
	Nov. 1965		Nov. 1964		Nov. 1965		Nov. 1964		Nov. 1965				Nov. 1964				Wk. 12-3	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1965	1964
Anaconda	140	6	83	22	156	19	318	63	108	10	118	18	19	9	28	10	110	196
Billings	533	105	834	155	1,505	315	2,224	457	496	123	619	177	541	109	650	201	725	1,243
Bozeman	225	15	248	55	284	45	398	89	199	49	248	32	129	38	167	31	124	241
Butte	457	83	450	58	840	123	1,087	161	183	17	200	35	107	7	114	22	401	491
Cut Bank	65	10	50	11	283	74	200	53	51	25	76	28	16	16	32	11	171	146
Dillon	67	28	76	21	102	12	171	45	27	46	73	35	34	42	76	19	68	112
Glasgow	69	9	70	5	129	9	204	16	97	24	121	12	78	8	86	14	96	193
Glendive	50	3	72	11	138	8	196	21	33	24	57	5	38	22	60	9	64	129
Great Falls	941	186	581	91	1,277	256	1,318	265	470	75	545	142	269	34	303	79	644	957
Hamilton	86	10	74	14	175	26	178	33	66	36	102	17	36	29	65	7	111	125
Havre	94	16	93	21	181	30	253	71	61	41	102	28	49	11	60	6	110	233
Helena	186	30	227	32	318	68	412	82	158	34	192	73	147	34	181	63	227	342
Kalispell	262	43	362	65	752	165	943	166	213	10	223	56	174	19	193	49	492	661
Lewistown	83	8	82	13	167	19	222	37	49	41	90	16	40	35	75	12	108	209
Livingston	51	5	41	7	285	45	228	43	61	11	72	10	65	9	74	13	148	173
Miles City	84	7	98	11	124	14	187	38	63	24	87	10	68	42	110	22	60	142
Missoula	606	80	487	93	1,055	137	1,033	178	376	66	442	73	292	26	318	62	359	486
Polson	88	20	50	7	233	52	170	36	47	10	57	17	16	3	19	2	121	150
Shelby	44	8	42	8	74	19	105	32	64	28	92	13	41	20	61	6	80	99
Sidney	61	11	74	10	130	17	133	17	44	27	71	10	56	15	71	9	67	107
Thom. Falls	41	12	55	7	97	21	116	22	27	2	29	6	41	4	45	16	71	74
Wolf Point	59	12	100	21	175	42	191	42	27	36	63	11	43	16	59	13	123	161
Billings YOC**	156				550				100	13	113							
TOTALS	4,448	707	4,249	738	9,030	1,516	10,287	1,967	3,020	772	3,792	824	2,299	548	2,847	676	4,480	6,670

*Includes 428 claims of the Fed. UC Program 423 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov. (1) 1965	Oct. (2) 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. (1) 1965	Oct. (2) 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. (1) 1965	Oct. (2) 1965	Nov. 1964
All Manufacturing	109.48	113.57	109.47	39.1	41.0	40.1	2.80	2.77	2.73
Durable Goods	109.14	116.20	108.00	39.4	42.1	40.6	2.77	2.76	2.66
Primary Metals	110.26	116.40	111.50	39.1	40.7	40.4	2.82	2.86	2.76
Nondurable Goods	110.50	108.98	111.22	38.5	39.2	39.3	2.87	2.78	2.83
Food and Kindred Products	96.07	96.05	98.01	39.7	41.4	40.5	2.42	2.32	2.42
All Mining	120.74	122.70	114.64	38.7	39.2	38.6	3.12	3.13	2.97
Metal Mining	118.61	118.93	107.53	37.3	37.4	36.7	3.18	3.18	2.93
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	112.86	112.40	109.57	39.6	39.3	39.7	2.85	2.86	2.76

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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